

PATENT
006775USA
7828.7082

Application No. 10/632,882

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 45 are in the case. Claims 45-50 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated August 18, 2005 and have made the changes believed appropriate to place the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on February 14, 2006 in which the appropriate procedure for filing this amendment after a notice of appeal was discussed.

The Examiner has objected to the specification. Applicants have amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's kind suggestion. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the objection to the specification should be withdrawn.

As set forth above the specification has been amended to overcome a minor informality rejection. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment to the specification will not require a new search or raise new issues for consideration by the Examiner. It is submitted that this amendment places the application in better form for appeal. This amendment was not presented earlier because it was inadvertently overlooked in response to the prior Office Action. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter and consider this amendment after notice of appeal.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indication of allowability for claims 1-45.

Claims 46-50 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2003/0217914 to Miller et al. (Miller). Claims 46, 48 and 50 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2004/0020770 to Wang et al. (Wang). Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to expedite prosecution, claims 46-50 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to pursue the subject matter of these claims as originally filed.

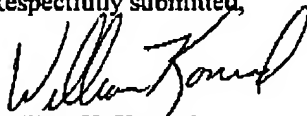
It is respectfully submitted that this amendment to the claims will not require a new search or raise new issues for consideration by the Examiner. It is submitted that this amendment places the application in better form for appeal. This amendment was not presented earlier because it was deemed to be appropriate after the Examiner's refusal to enter applicants' prior amendment. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter and consider this amendment after notice of appeal.

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In the statement of reasons for allowance the Examiner provided various reasons for allowance. Applicant notes that the claims are directed to various combinations of features. It is respectfully submitted that the patentability of each of the allowed and allowable claims resides in the combination of features recited in that claim in addition to any features noted by the Examiner.

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

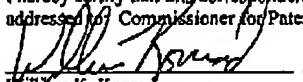

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Date: February 15, 2006

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to Examiner Steven VerSteeg at fax number ⁵⁷¹⁻²⁷³⁻⁸³⁰⁰~~703-872-9306~~ and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


William K. Konrad
02/15/06
(Date)